

### Rudd's Apalis

Ruddse Kleinjantjie

*Apalis ruddi*

Rudd's Apalis is a near endemic to southern Africa. Further north and west it occurs in southern Malawi (Hanmer 1979) and southern Mozambique south of the Save River (Clancey 1980b). In the atlas region it is restricted to KwaZulu-Natal north of Lake St Lucia (2832CB) and the eastern lowveld of Swaziland, west of the Lebombo Mountains. The atlas data confirm the distribution shown by Cyrus & Robson (1980); the highest reporting rates were obtained in the coastal areas of northern KwaZulu-Natal. In 1943–44 when Bevan (1944) studied Rudd's Apalis north of Lake St Lucia, he found 9 pairs/10 ha of suitable habitat. The population in Swaziland was estimated at 1000 breeding adults (Parker 1994). It is not uncommon within its restricted range.

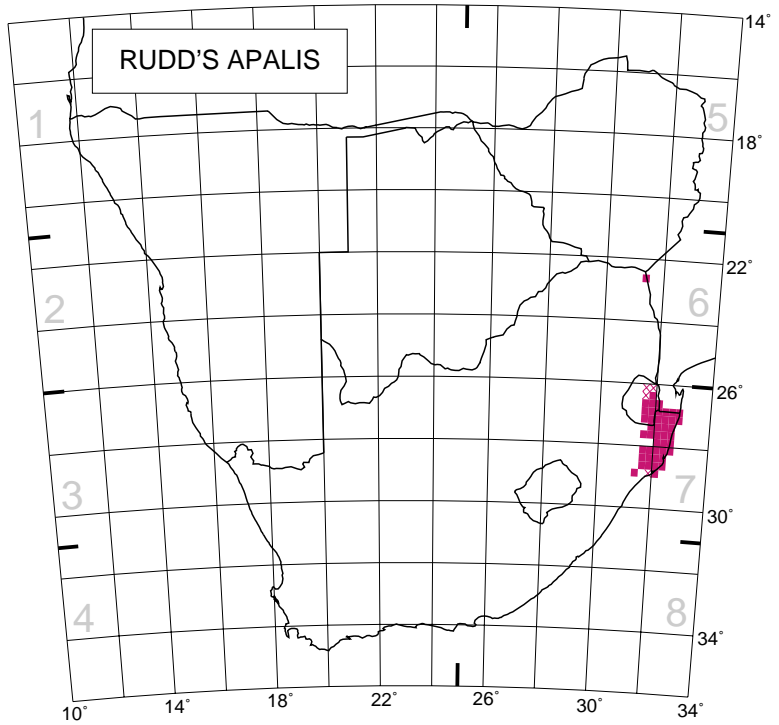
It has a distinctive call which is, however, similar to that of the Barthroated Apalis *A. thoracica*; it is also similar in appearance to that species.

It occurs largely in flat coastal areas of bush and forest (Bevan 1944). It was most frequently reported from the East Coast Littoral forests and adjacent woodlands, but it also extends along riverine thickets into dry thorn scrub (Cyrus & Robson 1980).

There is a peak in reporting rates during early summer, corresponding to the start of the breeding season when pairs may be more vocal. Dean (1971) reported breeding September–January.

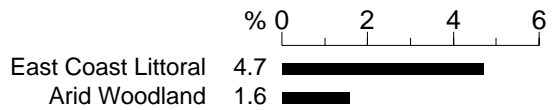
It often occurs together with the Yellowbreasted Apalis *A. flavida* but not usually with the Barthroated Apalis. In Swaziland it was reported from lower altitudes and drier vegetation types than the Barthroated Apalis (Parker 1994).

It was considered by Siegfried *et al.* (1976) to be rare and vulnerable but the boundaries with the superficially similar Barthroated Apalis were then not yet well known. There is no evidence to suggest that Rudd's Apalis is either rare or vulnerable (cf. Brooke 1984b) or that numbers are decreasing.



Recorded in 48 grid cells, 1.1%  
 Total number of records: 756  
 Mean reporting rate for range: 16.3%

Reporting rates for vegetation types



D.H. Day

